



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

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## Summary

## Contents

### CONTENTS



#### Welcome from the Director

Includes: Welcome from the Director of the **Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre**.



#### Explore Your Region with the National Regional Profile

Includes: An article showing how you can use data from the new version of the **National Regional Profile** to see changes in your region over time and compare your region to other regions, your State/Territory or Australia.



#### ABS to Replace Statistical Geography in 2011

Includes: An article highlighting the changes the ABS will be making to statistical geography in 2011.



#### Economy

Includes: Information about an article on **Interstate Commuters** and details of the upcoming releases of **Personal Income Tax Data**.



#### Population and People

Includes: Recent 2006 Census releases such as the **CDATA online tool**, and the **Estimated Resident Population DataPack**. Other releases include **Perspectives on Regional Australia: Population Turnover**, and **Population by Age and Sex: Regions of Australia**.



#### Industry

Includes: Recent releases such as **Agricultural Commodities: Small Area Data**, a range of **Agricultural State Profiles**, and **Tourist Accommodation: Small Area Data**.



#### Environment and Energy

Includes: The recent releases of **Water and the Murray-Darling Basin - A Statistical Profile**, **Water Use on Australian Farms**, and **Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms**.



#### Other News and Contacts

Includes: Recent releases such as **State and Regional Indicators** for Tasmania and Victoria, **Regional Statistics: Northern Territory**, information about the new release **NSW State and Regional Indicators**, **About us** and how to **Contact us**.

## In this issue

### WHAT'S NEW IN REGIONAL STATISTICS

'What's New in Regional Statistics' is a biannual newsletter about regional and small area statistics. It includes topical articles and reviews of relevant ABS publications. 'What's New in Regional Statistics' highlights developments in statistics relevant to regions, including metropolitan, urban, non-urban and rural areas, and other information of likely interest to researchers, policy makers and other users of small area data.

Interested readers are invited to visit the [Regional Statistics theme page](#) on the ABS website for links to other related information.

### INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

# Welcome from the Director



## WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

### WHAT'S NEW IN REGIONAL STATISTICS

Welcome to the fourth edition of the 'What's New in Regional Statistics' newsletter!

#### What's in this issue?

There are two feature articles in this issue. In [Explore your region with the National Regional Profile](#), we show how you can use data from the new version of the National Regional Profile to see changes in your region over time, or to compare your region with other regions.

The second feature article, [ABS to replace statistical geography in 2011](#), explains the changes the ABS will be making to the geography we use for statistical outputs. In this article, read about what will replace Statistical Local Areas and other ABS geographies, and about the consultation on new boundaries.

Other information in this newsletter is grouped into topic headings. Under [Economy](#), you will find a link to a recent article on interstate commuters. The new release on 'Population Turnover', which reveals which regions across Australia had the highest and lowest 'turnover' of usual residents at the 2006 Census, is one of the releases under the [Population and People](#) topic. Under [Industry](#), find out about small area agricultural commodity data. Under [Environment and Energy](#), there is a new statistical profile of the Murray-Darling Basin.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative, and we welcome your feedback and comments.

Andrea Woods

Acting Director  
Regional Statistics Branch

# Explore Your Region with the National Regional Profile



## EXPLORE YOUR REGION WITH THE NATIONAL REGIONAL PROFILE

#### Using the NRP

[Explore your region's economy](#)

[Explore your region's population/people](#)

[Explore your region's industry](#)

[Further information about the NRP](#)

#### **Using the NRP**

This article uses examples to illustrate how data from the [National Regional Profile](#) (NRP) can be used to show changes over time in your region or show how your region compares to other regions. We have used

the Local Government Areas of Greater Bendigo in Victoria and Mackay in Queensland in the examples.

To learn more about what data is in the NRP, and how to find and navigate around the profiles of the regions you are interested in, go to the NRP [Welcome Page](#) and look for the Help on the left menu bar.

All of the following examples use data viewed on the NRP web pages, or downloaded from Excel spreadsheets or SuperTABLE datacubes. Once data for your region(s) of interest is downloaded to your computer, you can create your own tables, or use the graph package in your spreadsheet program to create different styles of graphs.

### Explore your region's economy

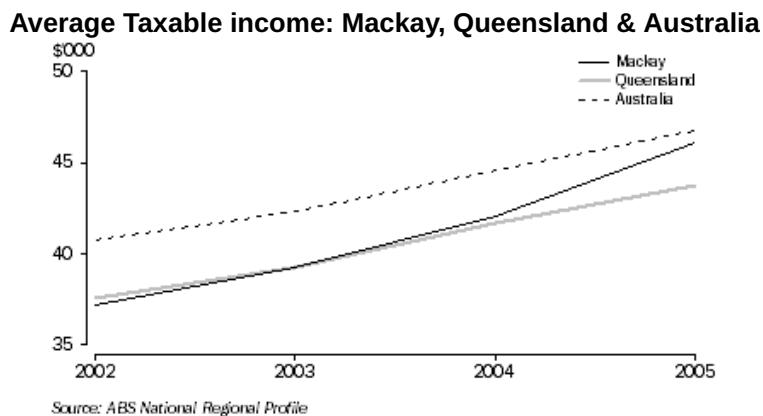
The NRP contains a number of series related to the economy of regions, including estimates of the unemployment rate, a range of taxation data, and counts of businesses.

Say you want to look at the taxable income data for Mackay. After selecting the region of Mackay, go to the [Economy](#) page in the profile and view the data:

| TAXATION STATISTICS - year ended 30 June | 2002   | 2003   | 2004   | 2005   |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Non-taxable individuals (no.)            | 8 236  | 8 538  | 9 181  | 8 828  |
| Taxable individuals (no.)                | 33 219 | 34 999 | 36 721 | 39 740 |
| Taxable income (\$m)                     | 1 237  | 1 375  | 1 544  | 1 830  |
| Average taxable income (\$)              | 37 231 | 39 278 | 42 044 | 46 051 |
| Net tax (\$m)                            | 287    | 329    | 375    | 457    |
| Average net tax (\$)                     | 8 629  | 9 394  | 10 206 | 11 489 |
| Average net tax ratio (%)                | 23     | 24     | 24     | 25     |

Source: ABS National Regional Profile

If you now want to compare the average taxable income in Mackay with the averages for Queensland and Australia, you could download the data (from the Excel spreadsheets for each region or from one of the SuperTABLE data cubes) and create a graph, for example:



For further information about using the Excel spreadsheets and SuperTABLE data cubes in the NRP, see the [NRP Video Demonstration](#) (Video Segments 2 and 3) available from the Help section on the NRP [Welcome Page](#).

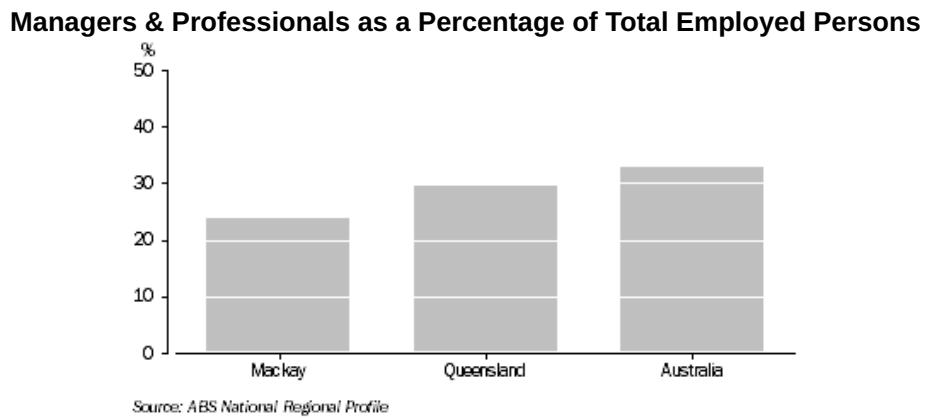
[Back to top](#)

### Explore your region's population/people

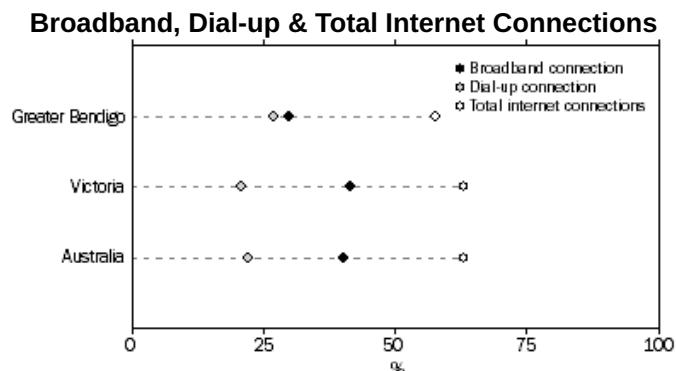
The NRP contains a number of series related to the population/people of regions, including estimated resident population, occupation of employed persons, internet access, and births and deaths.

Say you want to compare the percentage of employed persons who are managers and professionals in Mackay in 2006, with the percentages for Queensland and Australia. The data for Mackay, for example, can be viewed in the [Population/People](#) page.

You could download the data (from the Excel spreadsheets or one of the SuperTABLE data cubes) and create a table, or create a graph like the following example:



Another way of comparing regions using graphs is shown in the example below, where we have compared the data on household access to the internet in 2006 for Greater Bendigo, with Victoria and Australia.



Source: ABS National Regional Profile

[Back to top](#)

## Explore your region's industry

The NRP contains a number of series related to the Industry of regions, including building approvals, registered motor vehicles, and agriculture data.

Say you want to look at the number of building approvals in Mackay over time.

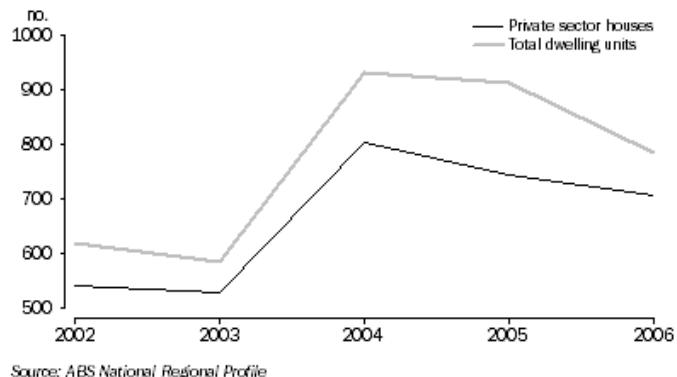
To find Building Approvals information for Mackay, go to the [Industry](#) page to view the data:

| BUILDING APPROVALS - year ended 30 June       | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Private sector houses (no.)                   | 541  | 529  | 804  | 745  | 707  |
| Total dwelling units (no.)                    | 621  | 585  | 931  | 913  | 786  |
| Value of total residential building (\$m)     | 91   | 103  | 168  | 181  | 193  |
| Value of total non-residential building (\$m) | 66   | 42   | 58   | 110  | 72   |
| Value of total building (\$m)                 | 157  | 144  | 226  | 291  | 265  |

Source: ABS National Regional Profile

Say you now want to look at only the number of private sector houses and total dwelling units in a graph. Once we have downloaded the Excel spreadsheet for Mackay, we can create a graph, like the following example:

## Building Approvals for Mackay: Private sector houses and total dwelling units



## Further information about the NRP

For further information about what data is in the National Regional Profile, how to find your region of interest, and using the National Regional Profile, go to the National Regional Profile [Welcome Page](#) and look for the Help information on the left menu bar.

[Back to top](#)

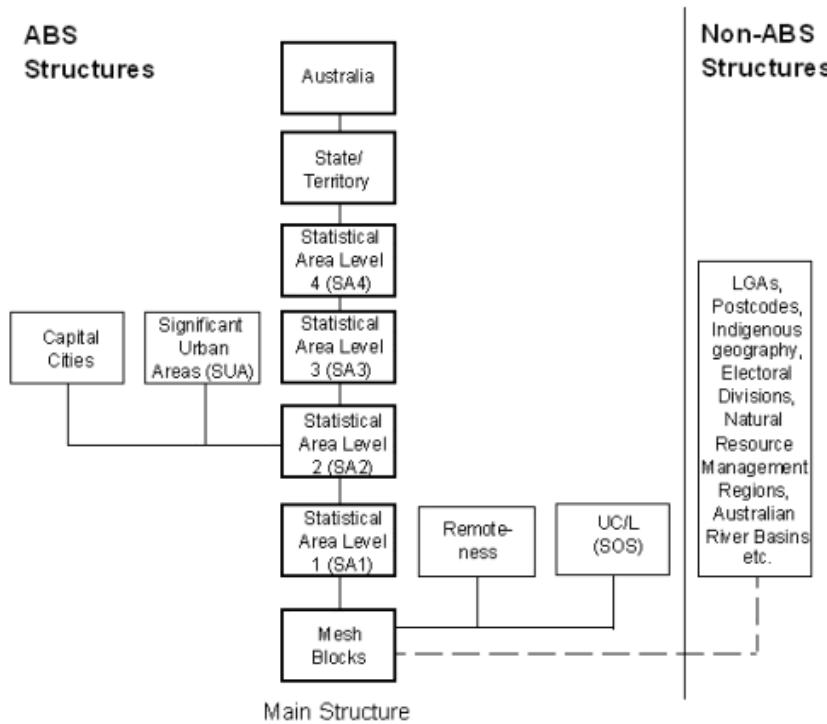
## ABS to Replace Statistical Geography in 2011



### ABS TO REPLACE STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY IN 2011

The ABS released the [Information Paper: Outcome from The Review of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification \(ASGC\), 2008](#) (cat no 1216.0.55.002) on 25 July 2008. The paper explains that the current ASGC will be replaced in July 2011 with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).

The diagram below summarises the overall structure of the ASGS.



The ASGS brings all the spatial regions used by the ABS to output data under the one umbrella. They are separated into two broad categories: ABS structures, those which are defined and maintained by the ABS, and non-ABS structures, those defined and maintained by other organisations, but for which the ABS supplies data.

The regions of the ASGS, their codes and labels will be designed over the next two years. The first will be the SA2s, as these have emerged as the key level in the ABS Main Structure. The SA2s are the level for which the majority of ABS sub-state intercensal data will be available. They will have a minimum population of 3,000 and a maximum of 25,000, comparable in size to the current Statistical Local Area.

SA2 design has begun. A set of first cut boundaries is being developed with the State Planning Authorities in each state which will form the basis for wider consultation. The consultation period will be at least 3 months for each state and there is scope for significant revisions. SA2 design for each state should be finalised by early 2009.

SA1s are the smallest areas for which a wide range of Population Census data will be released. They will have a population of about 400 people, comparable in size to the current Census Collection District. The first cut SA1 boundaries will be developed within the ABS for most states. These will also be released for 3 months stakeholder comment before they are finalised in late 2009.

SA3s and SA4s will be the last regions of the Main Structure developed. This will occur in the first half of 2010. The consultation for these levels will be shorter and more targeted. SA4s will be used for the release of Labour Force Statistics and are expected to have a population of approximately the same size as the current Labour Force Regions. SA3s are a medium sized unit with a more variable population from 30,000 to 130,000.

Urban Centres and Localities (Section of State) and Remoteness structures require data from the 2011 Census to be defined. The ABS intends to generate UCL boundaries on a basis similar to what has been done in the past. The move to mesh blocks will create some differences as they allow a more precise definition of the urban rural boundary.

The non-ABS structures will be developed up to and beyond the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. Apart from the Indigenous geography, which will be more integrated into the ABS structures, other non-ABS geographies will be approximated using mesh blocks close to the date of the Census.

Stakeholders interested in being consulted over the design, or anyone who has any questions about the new Geography should email [geography@abs.gov.au](mailto:geography@abs.gov.au).

## Economy



### ECONOMY

#### RECENT RELEASES

##### [Interstate Commuters](#)

#### FORTHCOMING RELEASES

##### [Personal Income Tax Data](#)

#### INTERSTATE COMMUTERS

The recent release of [Australian Labour Market Statistics, Oct 2008](#) (cat. no. 6105.0) on 3 October 2008 contains an article on Interstate Commuters, i.e. people who live in one state but work in another. The article uses data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and relates to the main job of the individual in the week prior to the Census. There is a brief analysis of where people are commuting from, the destinations they are commuting to and in which industries and occupations they are employed.

Key findings in the article include:

- The mining industry accounted for 19% of those commuters travelling to Western Australia to work and 13% of those travelling to South Australia.
- In the Northern Territory, 20% of persons who commuted there for work were employed in the Construction industry, while the national total for interstate commuters employed in Construction was 9%.

#### PERSONAL INCOME TAX DATA

The latest personal income tax data are due for release in the next few months. The products to be released are:

- Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia 2005-06 - Datacubes (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003). (Early 2009).
- Persons with Main Source of Income from Own Unincorporated Business, Australia 2004-05 to 2005-06 - Datacubes (cat. no. 6225.0.55.001). (Early 2009).
- Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, 2001-02 to 2005-06 - Datacubes (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002). (17 December 2008).

The statistics produced for these releases have been compiled from the Australian Taxation Office's Individual Income Tax Return Database. The data are available for various levels of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) such as Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Local Government Areas (LGAs), Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) and Statistical Divisions (SDs).

[Back to top](#)

## Population and People



## POPULATION AND PEOPLE

### RECENT RELEASES

[Perspectives on Regional Australia: Population Turnover](#)

[Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia](#)

[CDATA Online](#)

[Census of Population and Housing: Estimated Resident Population Datapack](#)

[A Profile of Carers in Australia](#)

[Births, Australia](#)

[Deaths, Australia](#)

### FORTHCOMING RELEASES

[Census of Population and Housing: Australia's Children and Youth](#)

### PERSPECTIVES ON REGIONAL AUSTRALIA: POPULATION TURNOVER

Released on 30 September 2008, [Perspectives on Regional Australia: Population Turnover, 2006](#) (cat. no. 1380.0.55.005) uses data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing to outline the extent of population 'turnover' across Australia, at the Statistical Local Area (SLA) geographical level, between August 2001 and August 2006.

The publication includes SLAs with the highest and lowest estimated population turnover (highest twenty and lowest twenty) as well as case studies of one selected SLA in each state and territory. The case studies illustrate how Census data can be used to investigate differences in the characteristics of people arriving in, departing from, and staying in a particular SLA.

#### Findings of the data include:

- The twenty Statistical Local Areas that had the highest turnover were all in urban areas and were mostly in the Northern Territory or the Australian Capital Territory. These areas included parts of Darwin City as well as Jabiru in the Northern Territory, and Acton and Kingston in the Australian Capital Territory. In some of these regions - such as inner city areas of Darwin, and Driver in the Northern Territory - the number of people arriving in and departing from the region was almost one-for-one.
- The twenty Statistical Local Areas that had the lowest turnover in their population were all in rural areas; either in the Northern Territory or Queensland. All of these regions had high proportions of Indigenous people. Lowest turnover areas include Angurugu and West Arnhem in the Northern Territory, and Yarrabah and Aurukun in Queensland.
- The 15-29 years age group was the most common age group in over half of the high turnover regions, while the most common age group in all low turnover regions was 0-14 years.

The release includes an Excel spreadsheet containing turnover data for all SLAs in Australia, excluding unincorporated areas and SLAs with less than 500 people.

[Back to top](#)

### POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX, REGIONS OF AUSTRALIA

Released on 19 August 2008, [Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2007](#) (cat. no. 3235.0) contains estimates of the resident population by age (in five-year age groups up to 85 and over) and sex at 30 June 2007. Estimates are provided for Local Government Areas (LGAs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Statistical Divisions (SDs), Statistical Subdivisions (SSD) and the States and Territories of Australia. The

publication includes statistics on total population; age and sex distribution; median age; children (under 15 years and 0 to 4 years old); working age population; older people and sex ratios for the geographies mentioned above.

### Findings presented for each state/ territory include:

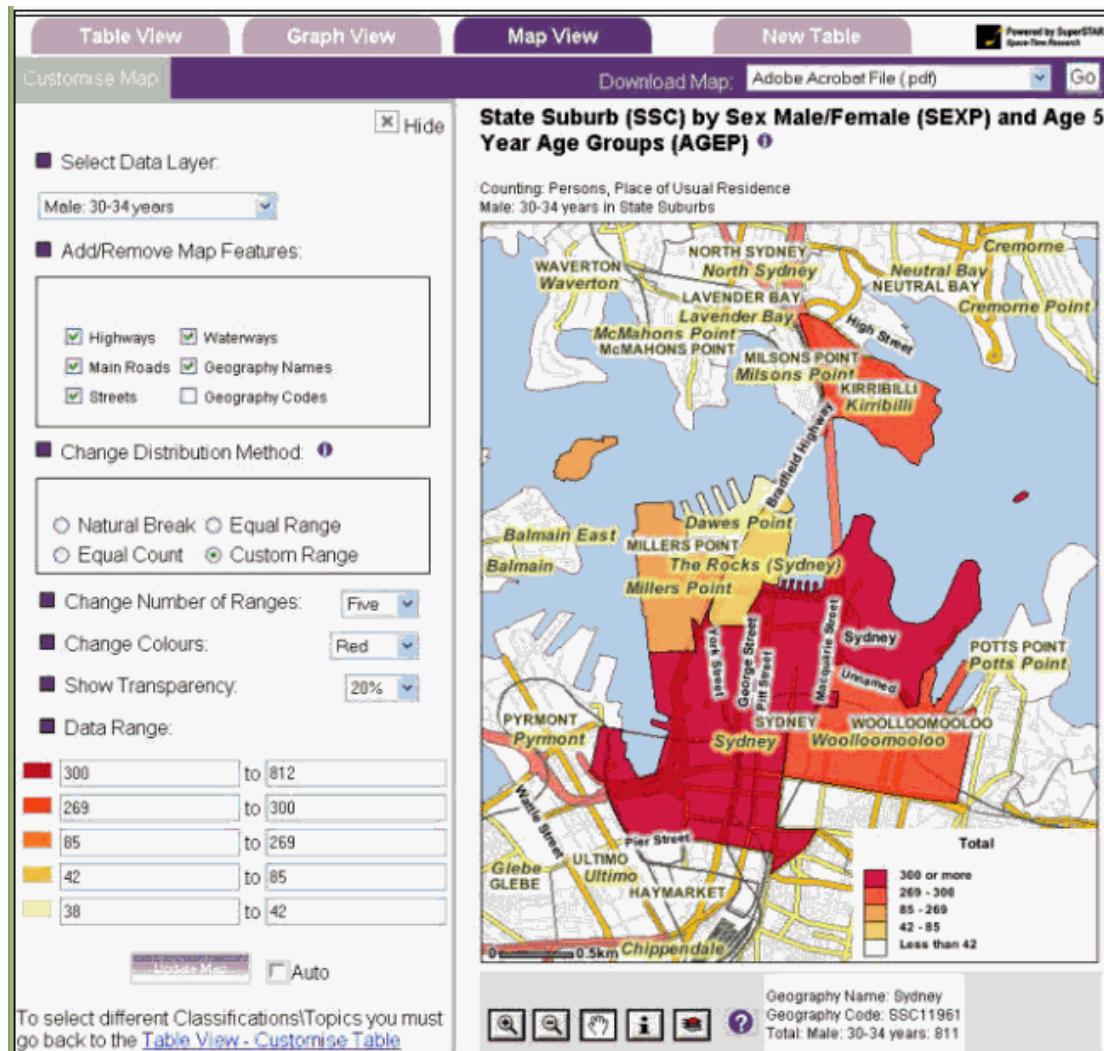
- For Queensland, the median age for the 34 discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Councils at June 2007 was 23.5 years, substantially lower than the median age for Queensland as a whole (36.2 years).
- For LGAs with more than 2,000 people in South Australia, the highest ratio of males per 100 females was in Roxby Downs (M) (134.3), followed by Streaky Bay (DC)(115.7).
- Reflecting the current employment opportunities in the resources industry, outside the Perth SD, the four shires of the Pilbara as well as Ravensthorpe (S) and Kalgoorlie/Boulder (C) each had more than 70% of their populations in the 15-64 year working age bracket.

[Back to top](#)

### CDATA ONLINE

2006 CDATA Online (cat. no. 2064.0), released on 27 October 2008 is an online tool which combines information on Australian society from the 2006 Census, with web graphing and mapping capability. CDATA Online allows you to create your own tables of Census data on a range of different topics such as - age, education, housing, income, transport, religion, ethnicity, occupation and more. This free online product allows you to create tables, maps and graphs of Census characteristics for all ABS geographic areas.

Below is an example of how data can be presented in map format once you have created your own customised Census table.



[Back to top](#)

### CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION DATAPACK

Released on 28 August 2008, the Estimated Resident Population DataPack, 2006 (cat. no. 2069.0.30.007) is the latest Census DataPack of community profiles. '2006 DataPacks' are CD-ROM products containing 2006 Census of Population and Housing Community Profile data for all of Australia to the Collection District (CD) level and the matching digital boundary basemaps in generic Geographical Information System (GIS) format.

Other 2006 Census DataPacks include:

Basic Community Profile Datapack, 2006 (cat. no. 2069.0.30.001)

Indigenous Profile Datapack, 2006 (cat. no. 2069.0.30.002)

Time Series Profile Datapack, 2006 (cat. no. 2069.0.30.003)

Place of Enumeration Profile Datapack, 2006 (cat. no. 2069.0.30.004)

Expanded Community Profile Datapack, 2006 (cat. no. 2069.0.30.005)

Working Population Profile Datapack, 2006 (cat. no. 2069.0.30.006)

For a detailed description of each DataPack, the release timetable and the geographic availability of each profile along with information on how to order a DataPack, see the 2006 Census DataPacks page on the ABS website.

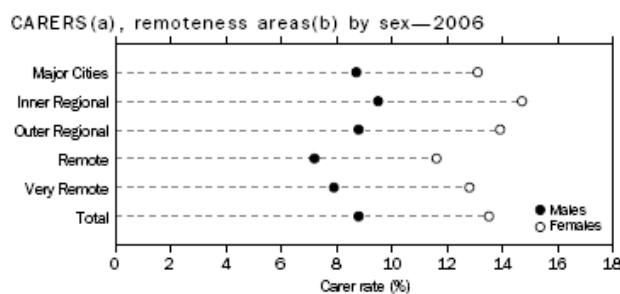
[Back to top](#)

## A PROFILE OF CARERS IN AUSTRALIA

A Profile of Carers in Australia, 2008 (cat. no. 4448.0) released on 14 October 2008, provides an overview of the characteristics and activities of people who provide informal assistance to someone with a disability, long-term health condition or to older people (aged 60 years and over). Information was drawn from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and from three ABS surveys: the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC); the 2006 General Social Survey (GSS) and the 2006 Time Use Survey (TUS). While most data are presented at the national level, some data are also presented for states and territories and by remoteness.

### Findings from the publication include:

In 2006, reflecting the age structure of populations in different areas of Australia, the carer rate among the population aged 15 years and over was highest for Inner Regional areas for both males (10%) and females (15%) and lowest in Remote areas (7% and 12% respectively).



(a) Carers aged 15 years and over as a proportion of all carers of that age and sex and remoteness area.

(b) Based on place of usual residence.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

[Back to top](#)

## BIRTHS, AUSTRALIA

Births, Australia 2007 (cat. no. 3301.0) was released on 28 October 2008 and presents a range of detailed statistics on confinements and live births including male and female births; births of Indigenous children; age and birthplace of parents; duration of marriage; nuptial and exnuptial births; single and multiple births; usual residence of mother (by state and territory); regional comparisons and fertility rates. Small level data is available for the number of births and fertility rates for statistical divisions (SDs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and Local Government Areas (LGAs).

## DEATHS, AUSTRALIA

Released on 25 November 2008, [Deaths, Australia 2007](#) (cat. no. 3302.0) presents the number of deaths classified by age, sex, birthplace, marital status, cause of death and usual residence by state or territory. Information on infant deaths; deaths of Indigenous persons; age-specific death rates; expectation of life at birth and standardised death rates are also included. Some data is presented for statistical divisions (SDs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and Local Government Areas (LGAs).

## CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: AUSTRALIA'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Scheduled for release in early 2009, Australia's Children and Youth, 2006 (cat. no. 2059.0.55.001) will use data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing to provide an overview of the characteristics of Australian children (persons aged 0 to 14 years) and youth (persons aged 15 to 24 years). A range of data will be provided on specific target populations such as children and youth in remote areas and the publication will also cover the distribution of children and youth by remoteness areas (e.g. remote, very remote, regional, major cities) and section of state (e.g. major urban vs rural areas).

[Back to top](#)

## Industry



### INDUSTRY

#### RECENT RELEASES

[Agricultural Commodities: Small Area Data](#)

[Agricultural State Profiles](#)

[Tourist Accommodation: Latest Small Area Data](#)

[Farm Management and Climate](#)

[Building Approvals, Australia](#)

#### AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES: SMALL AREA DATA

Released on 6 June 2008, [Agricultural Commodities: Small Area Data, Australia 2006-07](#) (cat. no. 7125.0) contains final commodity and livestock estimates from the 2006-07 Agricultural Survey for Statistical Divisions (SD) and Natural Resource Management (NRM) Regions. Five-yearly Agricultural Census data for selected commodities for Statistical Local Areas (SLA) is also presented.

Data is presented in spreadsheets broken into 'all commodities' and 'value of agricultural commodities produced' and covers area of holding, land use, pastures and broadacre crops, horticulture and livestock.

#### AGRICULTURAL STATE PROFILES

A number of Agricultural State Profiles have recently been released with 2005-06 data. The profiles provide an overview of the agricultural industry in a particular state and provide farm numbers, agricultural production and the state's agricultural contribution to the economy. Some data is provided at the Statistical Division (SD) level. Profiles that have recently been released include:

[Agricultural State Profile, New South Wales](#) (cat. no. 7123.1.55.001) - released 8 August 2008.

[Agricultural State Profile, Victoria](#) (cat. no. 7123.2.55.001) - released 22 August 2008.

[Agricultural State Profile, Queensland](#) (cat. no. 7123.3.55.001) - released 19 September 2008.

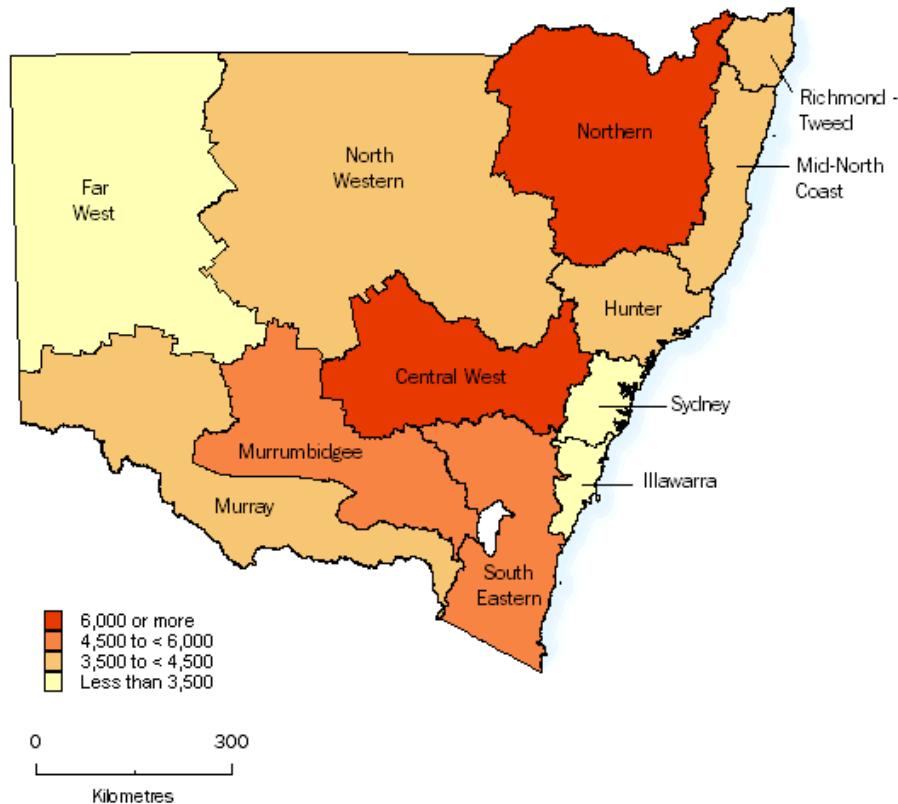
[Agricultural State Profile, South Australia](#) (cat. no. 7123.4.55.001) - released 1 October 2008.

[Agricultural State Profile, Western Australia](#) (cat. no. 7123.5.55.001) - released 15 October 2008.

#### Key findings from Agricultural State Profile, New South Wales include:

- In 2006-07, 44% of all apples produced in NSW came from the Central West SD (16,300 tonnes). This was followed by the Murrumbidgee SD with 15,500 tonnes.
- Barley is grown predominantly west of the Great Dividing Range, extending along the centre of NSW from the Northern Statistical Division (SD) down to the Murray SD.
- In 2006-07, production was affected by drought and fell to 0.8 million tonnes.
- The Northern Statistical Division (SD) recorded the highest number of businesses with agricultural activity in NSW at 30 June 2007 (7,600). This was followed by the Central West SD with 6,400 farms.

**Map of Businesses with Agricultural Activity, NSW at 30 June 2007**



[Back to top](#)

#### TOURIST ACCOMMODATION: LATEST SMALL AREA DATA

Released on 7 October 2008, [Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Australia, June 2008](#) (cat. no. 8635.0.55.002) presents data for Australia, state/territory, and by each Tourism region as defined by the respective state/territory tourism commissions. Each publication contains the results from the on-going quarterly Survey of Tourist Accommodation and provides information on the supply and demand for tourist accommodation. The data presented includes the number of establishments, capacity and employment for the quarter and occupancy and takings from accommodation for each month; by type of establishment and star grading.

Data for each state/territory is presented in the following publications:

[Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, New South Wales, June 2008](#) (cat. no. 8635.1.55.001)

[Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Victoria, June 2008](#) (cat. no. 8635.2.55.001)

[Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Queensland, June 2008](#) (cat. no. 8635.3.55.001)

[Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, South Australia, June 2008](#) (cat. no. 8635.4.55.001)

[Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Western Australia, June 2008](#) (cat. no. 8635.5.55.001)

[Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Tasmania, June 2008](#) (cat. no. 8635.6.55.001)

[Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Northern Territory, June 2008](#) (cat. no. 8635.7.55.001)

[Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Australian Capital Territory, June 2008](#) (cat. no. 8635.8.55.001)

[Back to top](#)

## FARM MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE

[Farm Management and Climate, 2006-07](#) (cat. no. 4625.0), released on 12 September 2008 presents climate themed data from the 2006-07 Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms survey, and complements [Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms 2006-07](#) (cat. no. 4620.0) which was released on 25 June 2008 (see [Environment and Energy](#)).

The results provide an important perspective into the views of land managers on changes to the climate, the effect of these changes, and the adaptability of land managers to such changes. Results are reported at a national and state/territory level, as well as for NRM regions.

## BUILDING APPROVALS, AUSTRALIA

The most recent issue of [Building Approvals, Australia, Sep 2008](#) (cat. no. 8731.0) was released on 5 November 2008. As part of this monthly publication the following data items are released in Excel datacubes for all levels of the main structure of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) including States and Territories, Statistical Divisions (SDs), Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) and Statistical Local Areas (SLAs):

- Number of new houses
- Number of new other residential building
- Number of total dwellings
- Value of new houses
- Value of new other residential building
- Value of alterations & additions to residential building
- Value of total residential building
- Value of non-residential building
- Value of total building

[Back to top](#)

## Environment and Energy



### ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

#### RECENT RELEASES

[Water and the Murray-Darling Basin - A Statistical Profile](#)

[Water Use on Australian Farms](#)

[Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms](#)

#### WATER AND THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN - A STATISTICAL PROFILE

Released on 15 August 2008, [Water and the Murray-Darling Basin - A Statistical Profile, 2000-01 to 2005-06](#)

(cat. no. 4610.0.55.007) draws together data from ABS and other sources, presenting a range of water, social, environmental and economic statistics about the Murray-Darling Basin. This region produces a high proportion of Australia's agricultural production and uses approximately 70% of the water applied to agriculture in Australia. Approximately two million Australian's live in the Basin, and are mainly employed in retail, health and agriculture. The region is environmentally significant in terms of internationally recognised wetlands, red gum forests, and the river ecosystem itself.

The information about the Murray-Darling Basin included in the publication covers climate; water availability; water consumption; agricultural production; Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production; population; employment; social characteristics; and natural resource management.

The publication covers the period from 2000-01 to 2005-06 and where available, presents data for smaller areas within the Basin. Maps are used extensively throughout the publication.

#### **Key findings from the publication include:**

- The Murray-Darling Basin generated 39% (\$15 billion) of Australia's agricultural production.
- The Murray-Darling Basin contained 65% of Australia's irrigated land.
- Over a third (38%) of Australia's farmers reside in the Basin.
- 13% of water consumption in the Murray-Darling Basin was by the water supply industry (mostly lost in delivery systems), 2% by households, 1% by manufacturing and 2% by other industries.
- The highest agricultural water users in the Basin were cotton (20%), dairy farming (17%), pasture for other livestock (17%) and rice (16%).

[Back to top](#)

### **WATER USE ON AUSTRALIAN FARMS**

Released on 27 August 2008, [Water Use on Australian Farms, 2006-07](#) (cat. no. 4618.0) presents data on the type and area of crops irrigated, volume of water applied, and the sources of water used in agriculture. Data is available for each State, Statistical Division (SD), Natural Resource Management (NRM) region and the Murray-Darling Basin. Some previous estimates are included for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

#### **Key findings from the publication include:**

- The NRM regions with the largest area of irrigated land were the Murrumbidgee (includes ACT) and Murray (NSW), and Goulburn Broken and North Central (Vic).
- These regions also had the largest volumes of irrigation water applied followed by Burdekin (Qld) and Murray Darling Basin and South East (SA).

### **NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ON AUSTRALIAN FARMS**

Released on 25 June 2008, [Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms, 2006-07](#) (cat. no. 4620.0) presents estimates compiled from the second survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics dedicated to Natural Resource Management. Information is presented on natural resource management issues, activities and costs on Australian farms along with data on weeds, pests, land and soil. Data is presented at the Australian, State and Regional (NRM Region) levels.

[Back to top](#)

## **Other News and Contacts**



### **OTHER NEWS AND CONTACTS**

[Mean, Median or Mode? Understanding Statistical Language](#)

[Focusing on NSW Regional and State Statistics](#)

[State and Regional Indicators, Tasmania](#)

[Regional Statistics, Northern Territory](#)

[State and Regional Indicators, Victoria](#)

[List of all Articles in this issue](#)

[About Us/ Contact Us](#)

[How to Subscribe or Unsubscribe to this Newsletter](#)

## **MEAN, MEDIAN OR MODE? UNDERSTANDING STATISTICAL LANGUAGE**

ABS has released [Statistical Language!, 2008](#) (cat. no. 1332.0.55.002), a glossary of statistical terms aimed at helping people understand statistics. This release contains descriptions of terms, along with examples and diagrams.

## **FOCUSING ON NSW REGIONAL AND STATE STATISTICS**

In June and July 2008 a user consultation and review was undertaken for the following publications; NSW in Focus, NSW Regional Statistics and Statistics News, NSW. As a result these three publications are being rolled into one quarterly publication.

This will provide a one stop publication for users looking for key NSW state and regional statistics as well as key events. It will also allow data to be provided on a more timely basis.

This new publication will be called NSW State and Regional Indicators, however will keep the catalogue number of 1338.1 (previously NSW in Focus). The first issue will be the December quarter, to be released on 20 January 2009. It will include all chapters from the last issue of NSW in Focus, 2008 as well as updated data and analysis for the Economic Activity and Work chapters (including regional data).

For more information please contact Larissa Wharton on (02) 9268 4376.

[Back to top](#)

## **STATE AND REGIONAL INDICATORS, TASMANIA**

[Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators](#) (cat. no. 1307.6) is a quarterly electronic release comprising a compendium of summary statistical information about Tasmania.

The Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators (TSRI) content is being built up progressively over the first four quarters, and will be updated regularly, as data are released. The first three releases have covered the topics of Labour; Economic Activity; Industry; Population; Family and Community; Household Economic Resources; Education; Housing and Construction; and Transport. The fourth TSRI release, which was released on 31 October 2008 completes the current range of content by covering:

- Health
- Crime and Justice
- Environment

Each topic presents summary commentary and includes graphs, maps and tables of data. Excel workbooks with more detailed data at state, regional and local government levels are linked to each topic and some Population Census and regional tables are included. The data contained in each topic is expected to be updated once per year. In future issues, it is planned to increase the number of regional and non-ABS tables, as data become available.

Several feature articles have been included and have a specific focus on Tasmania. The topics covered in previous issues are Adult Literacy, Ageing and Housing Indicators. The most recent release in October 2008 included a feature article with a focus on People with a Need for Assistance. The article was based on data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

[Back to top](#)

## **REGIONAL STATISTICS, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Released on 2 October 2008, Regional Statistics, Northern Territory, 2008 (cat. no. 1362.7) contains ABS and other government agency data for Northern Territory by Statistical Subdivisions. The publication presents information on a range of topics including population; employment; education and training; prices; income and expenditure; law and public safety; health; transport; housing and construction; agriculture and fisheries; mining and energy; tourism; imports and exports and government finance. Indigenous statistics are also included. Selected data is presented for Statistical Subdivisions (SSD).

A range of new data has been presented in this issue including:

- Evaporation rates by selected locations;
- Electricity, water and waste water production and usage;
- Offences Reported by Police by Selected Regions;
- Community Corrections data for NT SSDs;
- Commercial water craft and commercial license registrations.

[Back to top](#)

## STATE AND REGIONAL INDICATORS, VICTORIA

State and Regional Indicators, Victoria (cat. no. 1367.2) is a quarterly publication containing recently released statistical information about Victoria. Data is presented on a range of economic, social and environmental measures and sourced from ABS and non-ABS collections.

Most chapters contain a mix of tables, charts and commentary, to provide a basic analysis of recent movements in data. Varying geographic classifications are covered including Victoria, Melbourne and the Balance of Victoria down to Local Government Area for some series. The aim of the publication is to provide a picture of the situation of Victoria and enable comparison, both over time and between regions.

Core data, such as estimated resident population; state final demand; labour force statistics; price indexes; building approvals; air quality; and water storage volumes is complemented by periodic annual data including the condition of Vic roads network; recorded crime offences; life expectancy at birth; government owned housing stock and others.

The most recent issue (September 2008) was released on 21 November 2008.

[Back to top](#)

## LIST OF ALL ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE

[ABS to Replace Statistical Geography in 2011](#)

[Agricultural Commodities: Small Area Data](#)

[Agricultural State Profiles](#)

[A Profile of Carers in Australia](#)

[Births, Australia](#)

[Building Approvals, Australia](#)

[CDATA Online](#)

[Census of Population and Housing: Australia's Children and Youth](#)

[Census of Population and Housing: Estimated Resident Population Datapack](#)

[Deaths, Australia](#)

[Explore your Region using the National Regional Profile](#)

[Farm Management and Climate](#)

[Focusing on NSW Regional and State Statistics](#)

[Interstate Commuters](#)

[Mean, Median or Mode? Understanding Statistical Language](#)

[Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms](#)

[Personal Income Tax Data](#)

[Perspectives on Regional Australia: Population Turnover](#)

[Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia](#)

[Regional Statistics, Northern Territory](#)

[State and Regional Indicators, Tasmania](#)

[State and Regional Indicators, Victoria](#)

[Tourist Accommodation: Latest Small Area Data](#)

[Water and the Murray-Darling Basin - A Statistical Profile](#)

[Water Use on Australian Farms](#)

[Back to top](#)

## **ABOUT US / CONTACT US**

'What's New in Regional Statistics' is produced by the Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre of the ABS. This newsletter has been prepared as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Regional Statistics Program, to improve the availability of regional and small area data by leading the development of regional statistics and co-ordinating their dissemination. More information is available on the [ABS Regional Statistics theme page](#).

Please send your comments or queries regarding this newsletter to [regional.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:regional.statistics@abs.gov.au) or telephone (08) 8237 7350.

If you would like further information or data, please contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or e-mail [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au).

## **HOW TO SUBSCRIBE OR UNSUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER**

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Alternatively, you can access the Email Notification Service from the [ABS Home Page](#) or from the Email Notification icon on any other page of the website where it appears. Simply choose topic '1. General', subtopic '13. Year books and other multi-subject products', select 'Go' and scroll down to '1386.0 - What's New in Regional Statistics'. The service also enables you to find out what you have subscribed to, and cancel or modify your subscription.

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[Back to top](#)

## **About this Release**

Cat. 1386.0 is the new catalogue number for 'What's New in Regional Statistics' replacing Cat. 1379.0. The new catalogue number applies to the second issue of this publication (released 5/12/07) and all subsequent

releases.

'What's New in Regional Statistics' is a biannual newsletter about regional and small area statistics. It includes topical articles and reviews of relevant ABS publications. 'What's New in Regional Statistics' highlights developments in statistics relevant to regions, including metropolitan, urban, non-urban and rural areas, and other information of likely interest to researchers, policy makers and other users of small area data.

Interested readers are invited to visit the Regional theme page on the ABS website for links to other related information.

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